Newark, N. J.

22 February 1968

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md. 20734

Re: Our telephone conversation
Sunday, 18 February 1968.

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am very surprised and disappointed to learn that you too have been taken by Sanders lies, contradictions, and misrepresentations, considering your intelligence and backround. Iddid not expect that. However, I am used to disappointments in this case.

I am going to tell and present you with some facts, here, Mr. Weisberg, honestly, bluntly, man to man, and nothing I wouldn't say to your face. The first one is: that following my conversation with you, I consulted with some people in the N.Y.C. area who I will refer to more specifically later in this letter. They told me you were a very dangerous man and warned me not to write you or have any further contact or dealings with you except thru my attorney. I don't operate that way, but-I do have an attorney.

I will not attempt a rehash of the case, your visit to S.F., or of Sanders et al since it is all abundantly covered in the enclosures included and following, which I suggest you read carefully for your further enlightenment. You may also find them interesting.

Re: Sanders, New Orleans trip, my belongings and files, et al: I was there. I know what happened. I know that Thomas Williams Sanders deceived you, deliberately, lied to you blatently, mispepresented the facts, ommitted important ones, and you apparently bought all or most of it. That is your business, & problem.

The logic of events (and certain specific actions taken and being taken) will show who lied and why, and the specific roles, involvements, and responsibilities of all major principles in this case. You will learn thru what follows that I told the truth, and that you, Morgan, Alcock, and the others involved should have acted on that fact and not on the assumptions based on Sanders lies, etc.

When I consider what I know about what is going on in the world today, whats coming, the enormity of the responsibility of what you are doing, the importance of honesty, accuracy, and principled action, it sickens me that YOU could be taken by a phony bastard like Sanders, who I admit, puts on a pretty good act and show. I want to remind you that I probably saw more of him than you did, lived with him and was under preassure with him, and was together with him constantly under trying circumstances at best, for about ten consequtive days without any real break or separation. And, during this time, much was said, done, and - observed.

Sanders story (which he told everyone-contradictions included) is so full of holes that I really have to wonder wether he just put one over on you, or wether your as illegitiate as he is.

I prefer to believe the former. The implications of the later are pretty strenous. I wish to remind you that I am the rather obvious victim and not vice versa. I also wish to remind you, that even if Sanders story were true (the one about the money-he told three conflicting stories to differenct sources), he still could not morally or legally remove our property without our consent without a little thing called due process, ie: a civil suit or action. The F.B.I., my attorneys (I have two of them) and several other equally qualified sources (on points of law anyway) have told me blundly that-irrespective of any money issue (owed Sanders), he has committed Grand Theft. Do you, Morgan, Alcock, & co. support or condone such illegitimate and illegal actions? Apparently you do. That alone IS interesting. And, what is that????

I want to remind you that I got exactly NOTHING out of the trip but losses and negatives. Where have I gained? On what point/issue??? Where did I make any profit or gain in any direction? What was my motive? Who took off with whoe's private property, and lied about it?

If you, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Morgan, would like, send me a written signed request for an itemized statement of accounting of all expense money advanced to me and I will be more than happy to comply. I may make this request for request formal in near future. I will at that time also include, a documented list of all of my actual and proveable expenses and losses re entire trip and issue (including those caused by Sanders actions directly). That you may consider a directly challenge to you, Garrison, etc. et al. And, I really mean it.

Regarding the tape recorded statement you took from me at your home on the night of December ____, 1968: In view of your present statements and attitude regarding me, Sanders, and related issues, I am informing you that you do not - I repeat - you do not have my permission to use them or play it to anyone without my specific prior consent (including that relayed directly via my attorney or other duly authorized representative), until further notice. I am well aware that you could do so anyway but I am also fairly well aqainted with the laws and procedures regarding confidential and priveledged communications as well as disclosures from tapes made over wires (telephone etc.) or in private, etc. TO THIRD PARTIES.

I also think it only fair to inform you that: (1) as a former investigator with several close ex-C.I.A. friends, I know quite a bit about prosdures and use same for my own protection (and have for years in applicable situations) of which this clearly is one such. I therefore have evidence and documentation independent of the need for credulity verification by you, Alcock, Morgan, or anyone else on that end of the situation, including pertaining to statements made by Sanders. I have used tape recorders (concealed included) off and on for years, often with very good results. It has saved me from entrapment and false imprisonment attempts several times. I have enough on Sanders right now to put him away for quite awhile. (not just on the theft charge alone either, my friend-plenty else). (including threats to us via Linde via telephone-threats to give us bad trouble if we tried to do anything legally about his actions & our property. They are documented and have been witnessed)....

I think I should also inform you, that I have done quite a bit about this strange situation, behind the scenes, and - there are several very qualified and very interested people looking over my shoulder so to speak, who know I have done nothing wrong, but feel, with good reason that with Sanders and company, that is not the case. They wonder what in the hell is really going on and are fast arriving at conclusions, the results of which may yet prove most interesting..

As for the F.B.I.: There have been three reports filed on this case so far: (1) by Linde and I in New Orleans, (2) by a friend in S;F., (3) by another friend in Washington,D.C.. The fourth and final is being prepared by me, will be very total and complete, and will be filed thru an attorney with confidential private press sources having been made available to me by arrangement to cover the issue and be sure everybody does their job properly, if you read me. The report will be filed. The extent will depend on what takes place in the next few days-only.

You seemed a little concerned about my going to them. That is a correct and natural attitude for the informed. Interesingly enough Alcock, Morgan, and Sanders seem to think it's a joke, and with a relatively "go to hell" attitude, told me to "go ahead," like-they couldn't care less. A strange attitude indeed-all factors considered. Maybe they won't feel quite so gay about it after its done-the way its going to be done. I have not been threatening-just the opposite: I have been holding back and holding off, but it would appear that Sanders, Morgan, and Co. want to goad me into it. How stupid can those people be? Do they really believe that I am going to lose, that they will gain, or -that nothing will happen.????Care to bet on that. Wait until the complaints come in from some other sources concerning property of theirs in my files which Sanders has. Some of it is of a security nature and I have the right to have it, but not Sanders.

It has also been suggested to me, that I would be doing a public service by bringing my experience to lite so that combined with the experiences of other witnesses in this investigation-comparable people will not allow themselves to get involved in or be used by Garrison & company, to their detriment. If I do it, it won't be like the move with the Washington Evening Star. You must remember that we were very disorganized and under maximum stress at the time. (who the hell wouldt be after what we went thru). That is not the case now and we have had time to do plenty of organizing etc...

My motives and actions re New Orleans trip issue et al were legitimate and honorable and I will not submitt to lies, false accusations, theft of my property, and outrages, plus very expensive, unnecessary, negative disruptions to my life, expenses I cannot afford, and unjustified losses. There are rememdies and I will use all of them if necessary. It appears that that will be necessary. So be it.

I make not statement (here or elsewhere) I wouldn't be willing to sign my name to or swear to under oath under penalty of perjury. Ask Mr. Sanders if he is willing to do the same re his statements about situation, belongings, me, and New Orleands trip et al. He may soon find himself facing just that kind of situation. I don't think you people will do one thing for me or in attestation of the facts unless your forced to for your own interestes. Tha

Mr. Weisberg: I repeat that last direct-blunt challenge: Tell Mr. Sanders to put what he told you, Morgan, and others involved, in writing and sign his name to it - and send it to you, Garrison, Morgan, and me (and/or my attorney). Sanders is a psychopath, so he may do it and try to bluff his way thru some more, as he has done so far. But, frankly, I don't really think he will dare now.

As long as I was broke and in a helpless position, you people thought you could make light of the situation (very funny). That is factually what happened and I can prove it. Now the tables are turning and the position is no longer the same. How about that? You and Morgan are the only ones who acted with some proper sense of responbility and basic human decency. Garrisons people in N.O. made it clear, tho indirectly, that they didn't consider it important, that I was a pain in the ass (in effect). Wow. Well, when I decide to become a real pain in the ass, they may learn the difference.

I cannot help but wonder how may more "pains in the ass" there are around like me - in this situation. My personal guesss is-quite a few.

I intended to write you much sooner but I have been very busy with other matters including making a living. Something Sanders should try sometime, or did you know about how he really lives???? At this point, if I had to choose between the F.B.I. et al & Sanders, et al I'd prefer the F.B.I. et al. And that statement is not as ignorant as it may sound to you from me at this time. I won't tell you why.

Personally, I liked you (maybe some would consider it truly amazing that I could like anyone connected with the case after what happned to me-all responses included) and thought you were one of the very few really legitimate (are there any-left?) and truly informed persons left, in a very large moral, legal, and intellectual desert & vacuum. I still think so and that you will realize and want to correct the mistake made here, when you learn the truth about Sanders, who for his own stupid selfish reasons has jezpardized the positions of everyone connected with the investigation directly. A little opportunist who tho quite clever admittedly, is basically too sick, dishonest, and stupid, to really pull anything off. I might add that any reprisal attempt on me or to use me as a scapegoat for Sanders true actions and motives (when they are finally learned) would be disasterous for those involved. Sanders has already made such threats so I condiser that those who believe him must think along simular lines. I won't be in any mood for accepting apologies I don't think, when the reckoning on all this comes full circle.

Sanders also obtained confidential information from me under false presenses with which he has threatened me. I wish him lots of luck. When someone threatenes me, they had better do it fast, or duck. He possibly has gotten you, Morgan, Garrison and company in some real trouble. Lets see if I'm right. I don't really care what anyone happens to think anymore than I would care if someone thinks the world is square when I know it's round.

Very sincerely,

Richard A. Rye

P.S. have been reading your books-